



Improving Achievement: 2006 GEAR UP Mini-Grant Winners

GEAR UP provides support systems and resources for schools to establish a college-going culture. This year, the Council on Postsecondary Education has made mini-grants available to schools through their designated host institution.

Purpose of the mini-grants: To stimulate initiative and original ideas that accelerate schools' progress toward establishing a college-going culture.

The nine (9) winners for this year's competition received approximately \$75,000 in additional grant funds for special projects. The winners of the 2006 GEAR UP Mini-Grants are:

[Butler County Middle School](#)

[Memorial Elementary School](#)

[Clay County Middle School](#)

[O.M. Lassiter Middle School](#)

[Cub Run Elementary School](#)

[Sebastian Middle School](#)

[LeGrande Elementary School](#)

[Viper Elementary School](#)

[Leslie County Middle School](#)

All min-grant applications were required to:

- address ways to increase rigor and enrich student learning in the classroom
- address subject areas in need of critical attention as determined by the school's needs assessment findings

All applications judged on:

- Needs Assessment
- Goals and Objectives
- Services and/or Interventions
- Evaluation Methods Proposed
- Budget

Funding provisions:

- Awards range from \$1,500 to \$5,000 for two years (9/2006 – 6/2008)
- Applications accepted only once in a two-year period as awards are not renewable
- Projects funded for two years to receive awards in annual reimbursements, distinct from any other funds provided through the GEAR UP grant



Butler County Middle School		[back to top]
School Principal	Hazel M. Short	
School Location	Morgantown, KY	
GEAR UP Host Institution	Elizabethtown Community and Technical College	
GEAR UP Project Associate	Janice Crawford	
GEAR UP Site Coordinator(s)	Angie McKinney	
Grant Writer/Manager	Pam Fazel	
Total Funding Amount	\$5,142.00	
Funding Period	9/1/2006 – 6/30/2008	
Project Name	W.D.I.N.T.K.T.????? (Why Do I Need to Know That?????)	
Number to be Served	350 students and families	
Grade Level of Students to be Served	7 th and 8 th	
Project Goals/Objective(s)	<p>For students to be made aware of the need to participate in rigorous high school curriculum to prepare for future education</p> <p>For students to make a real-life connection between school coursework and career preparation</p> <p>To expose students to a variety of career paths</p>	
Project Description	<p>7th and 8th grade students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ participate in the Bridges Transitions, Inc. Choices Explorer[®], which is an online education and career exploration system that provides extensive libraries of education, career and recreation articles in an interactive magazine-style format ➤ participate in the Bridges Transitions, Inc. The Learning Style Inventory[™], which is used to diagnose students' unique learning styles based on an analysis of their personal preferences ➤ be exposed to The Digital Video Resource Library offered by the Futures Channel. This DVD series introduces students to career fields that promote critical thinking and problem solving skills by making the connection between math and science and the real world <p>8th grade students will participate in the school's Student Led Conference Program where students invite their parents to come in for a High School Course and Career Planning Conference that the students plan and direct.</p>	



Clay County Middle School		[back to top]
School Principal	A. Wayne Napier	
School Location	Manchester, KY	
GEAR UP Host Institution	Hazard Community and Technical College	
GEAR UP Project Associate	Heather Musick	
GEAR UP Site Coordinator(s)	Victor Gainer	
Grant Writer/Manager	Edna Dean	
Total Funding Amount	\$6,844.00	
Funding Period	9/1/2006 – 7/31/2008	
Project Name	Study Island	
Number to be Served	600 students	
Grade Level of Students to be Served	7 th and 8 th	
Project Goals/Objective(s)	<p>The number of students scoring less than 17 on Explore will decrease by five percent.</p> <p>The number of students scoring Proficient/ Distinguished will increase three percent while the number scoring Novice will decrease by five percent on the KCCT.</p> <p>Students will increase achievement, especially at-risk students.</p> <p>Students will receive increased instruction with technology.</p> <p>Students will be more motivated by integrated technology and mathematics in instruction.</p> <p>Parental involvement will increase.</p>	
Project Description	<p>7th and 8th graders will participate in the Study Island program, which is based solely on KY Core Content and offers specific instruction, assessment, and diagnostics for each standard test on the KCCT. This web-based program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforces and enhances student skills while collecting data for diagnostic reports • Presents the student with standard-specific practice focusing on skills outlined in the state standards given in the state assessment format • Gives students immediate feedback • Helps teachers identify strengths and weaknesses of each student • Encourages parent participation 	



Cub Run Elementary School		[back to top]
School Principal	Bobby Kessinger	
School Location	Cub Run, KY	
GEAR UP Host Institution	Elizabethtown Community and Technical College	
GEAR UP Project Associate	Janice Crawford	
GEAR UP Site Coordinator(s)	Beth England	
Grant Writers/Managers	Angela Barbour, Tara Smith, and Beth England	
Total Funding Amount	\$3,697.00	
Funding Period	9/1/2006 – 6/30/2008	
Project Name	Writing to Success	
Number to be Served	65 students and 24 parent chaperones	
Grade Level of Students to be Served	7 th and 8 th	
Project Goals/Objective(s)	<p>Students will demonstrate an increase of fifteen percent in writing scores.</p> <p>Students will demonstrate an increase in awareness of the world around them.</p> <p>Students will increase their scores in Arts and Humanities, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and Practical Living by ten percent.</p>	
Project Description	<p>Students will be required to study a wide variety of content, travel to several museums, and complete three written assignments.</p> <p>During the course of trips, students will complete a packet of questions that will require them to analyze the exhibits they encounter.</p> <p>Upon returning to the classroom, students will complete on-demand writing prompts, writer's notebook entries, and writing portfolio entries, including personal expressive and transactive genres.</p> <p>Students will also develop a PowerPoint presentation and/or poster to present to the primary classes in the school. The trips will be staggered throughout the year, all to be completed prior to the spring testing window.</p>	



LeGrande Elementary School		[back to top]
School Principal	Jerri Lyle	
School Location	Horse Cave, KY	
GEAR UP Host Institution	Elizabethtown Community and Technical College	
GEAR UP Project Associate	Janice Crawford	
GEAR UP Site Coordinator(s)	Beth England	
Grant Writers/Managers	Jerri Lyle and Beth England	
Total Funding Amount	\$3,247	
Funding Period	9/1/2006 – 6/30/2007	
Project Name	Math Quest	
Number to be Served	60 students	
Grade Level of Students to be Served	7 th and 8 th	
Project Goals/Objective(s)	<p>To target students who are not achieving at or above proficient level in math</p> <p>To provide hands-on learning in math through the use of manipulatives and math technology programs</p> <p>To increase all student scores by as much as 20% across the board in math</p>	
Project Description	<p>Students will participate in mini math quest activities, which will occur once per month for a two-hour period</p> <p>Students will be assessed at the end of each math quest</p> <p>The school's Family Resource Center and Volunteer Parent Group will provide assistance</p> <p>Activities include/involve: Technology-Study Island, Success Maker Math, Hands on Math Skills, Geo Boards, Calculators, KCCT Coach Books, and Study Skills</p>	



Leslie County Middle School		[back to top]
School Principal	Dana Coots	
School Location	Hyden, KY	
GEAR UP Host Institution	Hazard Community and Technical College	
GEAR UP Project Associate	Heather Musick	
GEAR UP Site Coordinator(s)	Victor Gainer	
Grant Writer/Manager	Anthony Morgan	
Total Funding Amount	\$11,100	
Funding Period	July 2007 and July 2008	
Project Name	Destination Graduation Transition Program	
Number to be Served	50 students	
Grade Level of Students to be Served	8 th and 9 th	
Project Goals/Objective(s)	<p>To decrease the achievement gap between low-income male students and the general student population by at least 10%</p> <p>To decrease the achievement gap between low income male & female students by at least 25%</p> <p>To decrease the failure rate for low-income male students in Algebra I by at least 30%</p> <p>To decrease the drop out rate of male students by at least 25%</p> <p>To provide 25 low-income male students with enriching, individualized support with mentoring, high school and college counseling, and tutoring that will enable them to make a smoother transition to high school and beyond</p>	
Project Description	<p>The Destination Graduation transition program will provide 25 low-income male students with a warm, enriching, and developmentally appropriate summer program.</p> <p>The program will take place in the month of July during a two year period.</p> <p>Various methods of instruction will be provided by two classroom teachers hired by the Site-Based Decision Making Council at Leslie County Middle School. The Youth Services Coordinator and the Principal will serve as administrators for the program and will be responsible for organizing activities, trips, contacting parents and students, student discipline, and technical assistance to teachers and students.</p>	



Memorial Elementary School

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School Principal	Steve Caven
School Location	Hardyville, KY
GEAR UP Host Institution	Elizabethtown Community and Technical College
GEAR UP Project Associate	Janice Crawford
GEAR UP Site Coordinator(s)	Beth England
Grant Writers/Managers	Sherri Myers, Rhonda Murphy, Ryan Choate, Beth England
Total Funding Amount	\$9,133
Funding Period	9/1/2006 – 6/30/2008
Program Name	Dress 4 Success Program
Number to be Served	140 students and 280 parents
Grade Level of Students to be Served	7 th and 8 th
Program Goals/Objective(s)	<p>To prepare students to set higher goals for themselves and to learn skills necessary to achieve those goals</p> <p>To equip students with practical “how-to” instruction for being successful in school</p> <p>That 70% of students choose careers that fall within the range of suggested career areas based on the interest inventory of the EXPLORE Test</p> <p>That 100% of students will plan to pursue the higher education that is required for their chosen career paths as evidenced in the EXPLROE data</p> <p>At least 98% of students will visit a college campus before entering high school</p> <p>At least 95% of students will indicate they feel that the school cares for their concerns</p>
Program Description	<p>Program will address four key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Job/Career Exploration ➤ Life Skills ➤ Hands On Experience ➤ Career Planning/Required Course Study Counseling <p>Students will participate in classroom work and will meet one-on-one with educators</p> <p>Students will visit college campuses and get to meet with the college departments of their choice about available programs</p>



O. M. Lassiter Middle School		[back to top]
School Principal	Dwayne Roberts	
School Location	Louisville, KY	
GEAR UP Host Institution	The University of Louisville	
GEAR UP Project Associate	Jenni Edwards	
GEAR UP Site Coordinator(s)	Debbie Cotton and Jacob Mercier	
Grant Writer/Manager	Dawn Scanlon	
Total Funding Amount	\$3,500	
Funding Period	11/1/2006 – 3/31/2007	
Project Name	O. M. Lassiter Pepsi House and Writing Project	
Number to be Served	100 students and parents	
Grade Level of Students to be Served	7 th and 8 th	
Project Goals/Objective(s)	<p>To provide additional writing instruction to all 7th and 8th grade students</p> <p>To enhance students' writing abilities</p> <p>To increase parental involvement in the writing process</p>	
Project Description	<p>High school students will conference with 7th grade students each November of the grant.</p> <p>Parents of 7th and 8th grade students will be invited to attend a writing workshop that will cover the writing process, the new analytical scoring rubric for writing, and ethical/unethical conferencing. Parents will also receive strategies for helping their children improve writing and information on the after-school writing workshop.</p> <p>Students will participate in the after-school writing workshop, which offers students a chance to work two or more days with Language Arts teachers between January and March. The workshop offers students more one-on-one attention from teachers than is possible in the regular classroom.</p> <p>Parents will attend "Pepsi House" our student recognition celebration modeled after the coffeehouses of the 1960's. Students use the "Pepsi House" as a publication showplace for their writing pieces.</p>	



Sebastian Middle School		[back to top]
School Principal	Tim Bobrowski	
School Location	Jackson, KY	
GEAR UP Host Institution	Hazard Community and Technical College	
GEAR UP Project Associate	Heather Musick	
GEAR UP Site Coordinator(s)	Linda Poppas	
Grant Writer/Manager	Lloyd Bach	
Total Funding Amount	\$7,000	
Funding Period	10/1/2006 – 5/31/2007	
Program Name	Differentiated Learning	
Number to be Served	347 students	
Grade Level of Students to be Served	7 th and 8 th	
Program Goals/Objective(s)	To provide students with additional resources and learning strategies which could help them learn required core content	
Program Description	<p>Teachers will undergo differentiated learning training</p> <p>Students will work in a variety of group settings</p> <p>Teaching strategies and related learning activities will address different learning styles</p> <p>Students will learn through interaction with peers, enhancement of core content, and assistance from the classroom teacher</p>	



Viper Elementary School		[back to top]
School Principal	Delilah Brashear	
School Location	Viper, KY	
GEAR UP Host Institution	Hazard Community and Technical College	
GEAR UP Project Associate	Heather Musick	
GEAR UP Site Coordinator(s)	Sandra Higgins	
Grant Writer/Manager	Kim Campbell	
Total Funding Amount	\$3,500	
Funding Period	9/1/2006 – 4/30/2007	
Program Name	Performing Arts Group	
Number to be Served	40 students	
Grade Level of Students to be Served	7 th and 8 th	
Program Goals/Objective(s)	<p>To help create a college-going culture and expose students to careers in areas outside of the “norm”</p> <p>To improve school culture</p> <p>To improve Arts and Humanities test scores by at least ten index points in the 8th grades</p> <p>To integrate this program to cover several disciplines including: Arts and Humanities, Writing, Practical Living/Vocational Studies, Social Studies, Public Speaking, Math, and English</p>	
Program Description	<p>Small group instruction and activities will be provided to students on an after-school basis</p> <p>Six teachers covering guidance counselor, special education, writing/language arts, social studies, and administration will voluntarily be on staff for instruction</p> <p>Community volunteers will also provide instruction in scenery set creation, quilt making, costume design, mural painting, and drama</p>	